

Department of Planning and Budget 2001 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number HB1906

House of Origin	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Introduced	<input type="checkbox"/> Substitute	<input type="checkbox"/> Engrossed
Second House	<input type="checkbox"/> In Committee	<input type="checkbox"/> Substitute	<input type="checkbox"/> Enrolled

2. Patron Callahan

3. Committee Privileges and Elections

4. Title Statewide mailing of voter registration cards.

5. Summary/Purpose:

The bill requires the State Board of Elections (SBE) to provide for a mailing of cards to all voters on the voter registration system in advance of the November 2001 general election. The costs of the mailing are to be paid by the Commonwealth as provided in the appropriation act.

6. Fiscal Impact Estimates are:

6a. Expenditure Impact:

<i>Fiscal Year</i>	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>Positions</i>	<i>Fund</i>
2000-01			
2001-02	\$1,204,000		GF
2002-03			

7. Budget amendment necessary: Yes – Item 88

8. Fiscal implications: This bill specifically requires that all active and inactive voters be mailed voter registration cards. The cost is borne by the localities unless the Commonwealth assumes the cost, as this bill proposes. Redistricting statute requires the localities to notify by mail, 30 days prior to the election, every voter whose precinct or district has changed.

During the last presidential and gubernatorial election year pair (1996, 1997), the number of registered voters increased 9.4 percent and 7.3 percent respectively between the November elections. During 2000, the number of registered voters increased 6.9 percent. If we assume a five percent rate of increase from January 1 through the October cutoff for registration (28 days before the election), the number of registered voters would be approximately 4,299,946.

Mailing costs for four million pieces, with a prefed voter card (and nothing else) inserted into a window envelope, are estimated at 28 cents per piece (including first class presort postage at no more than 24 cents per piece). The cost SBE projected in line 6 does not include any costs the agency might be assessed by the Department of Information Technology for producing the computer tapes necessary for the mailhouse to produce the mailing.

9. Specific agency or political subdivisions affected: State Board of Elections, local registrars.

10. Technical amendment necessary: No

11. Other comments: No

Date: 1/15/01 mtb

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c: Secretary of Administration

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